

Dr. Robert Lusardi

Dr. Lusardi is a researcher at the Center for Watershed Sciences and is the California Trout-UC Davis Wild and Coldwater Fish Scientist, appointed to the position in late 2014.

Rob is broadly interested in stream ecology and food web dynamics of river ecosystems in California. His research examines interactions between water temperature and food availability on the growth and survival of juvenile coho salmon, the role of aquatic macrophytes on invertebrate production and salmonid rearing in stream ecosystems, and how different environmental factors shape biotic response in spring-fed and runoff rivers. Other research interests include the conservation management and genetics of inland trout populations. Most recently, Dr. Lusardi, in collaboration with Patrick Samuel and Jacob Katz, completed the second annual State of the Salmonids Report (SOS II). Initially released in 2008, this report details the current status of all 32 native salmonid taxa in California by reviewing the most recent scientific literature. Much of the recent literature is produced by state and federal agencies in the form of reviews or technical reports. Key to the development of SOS II is the work with regional, state, and federal resource managers.

Dr. Lusardi is also working on several other projects to help inform California Trout conservation policy. Recent research includes understanding the relative role of food and water temperature on the growth and survival of juvenile coho salmon on the Shasta River, the importance of volcanic spring-fed rivers with respect to their role as refugia for coldwater fish under a rapidly changing climate, inland trout conservation management and strategy, and determining when and if trap and haul programs are appropriate for anadromous fishes in California.